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ANNUAL ADDRESS BY THE PRESIDENT

HONORABLE GARDINER G. HUBBARD

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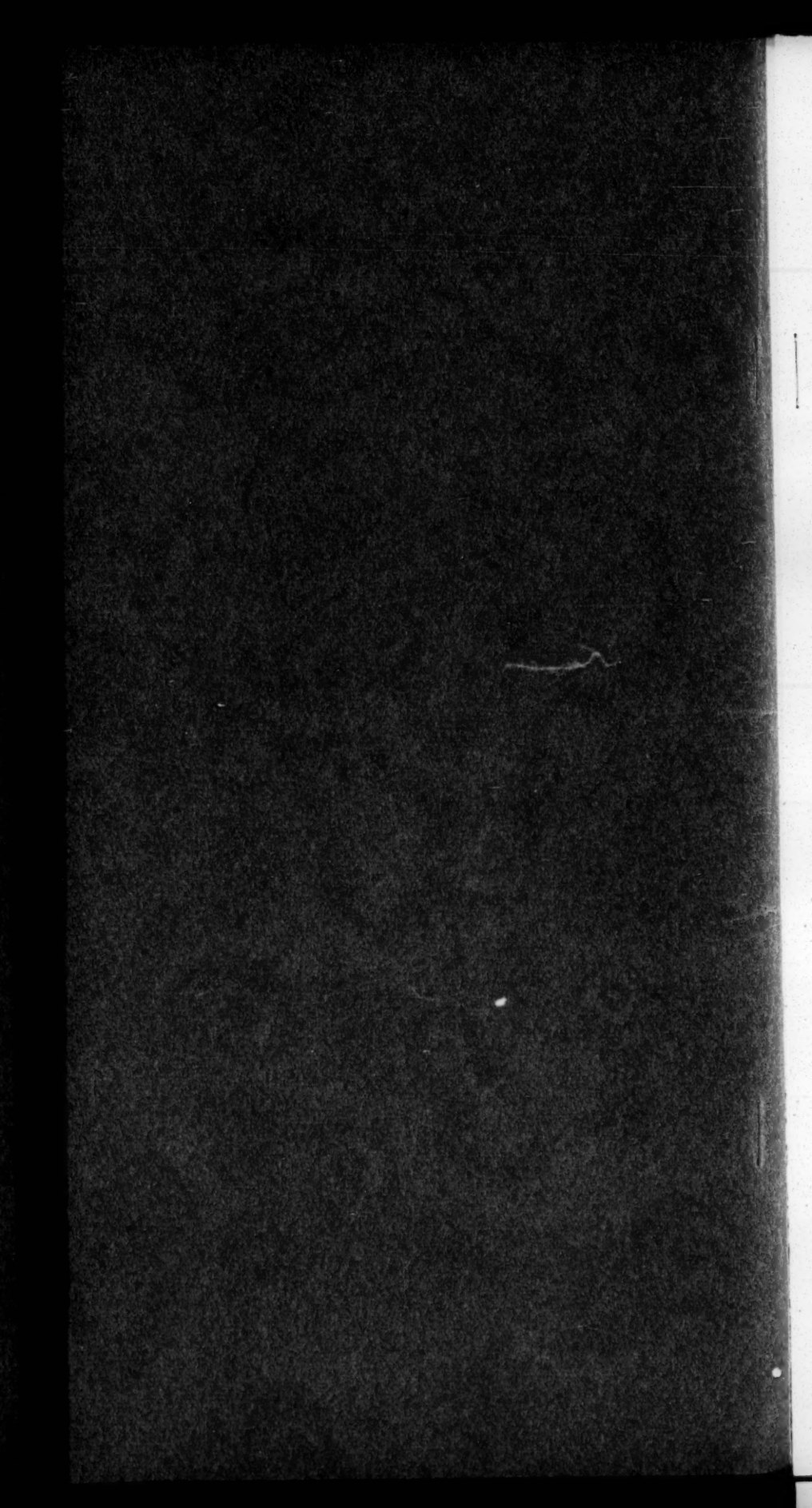

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THE

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC MAGAZINE

GEOGRAPHIC PROGRESS OF CIVILIZATION

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(*Presented before the Society February 2, 1894*)

If parallels of latitude were drawn around the earth about fifteen degrees north and fifteen degrees south of Washington, the land within these parallels would include all the countries of the world that have been highly civilized and distinguished for art and science. No great people, except the Scandinavians and Scotch, who, from their climate, belong to the same region, ever existed outside these limits; no great men have ever lived, no great poems have ever been written, no literary or scientific work ever produced, in other parts of the globe. In the far north are found savages and barbarians, the Mongols, Lapps, Eskimos, Finns and other equally barbarous tribes; in the south the Polynesians in Oceanica, the Hottentots and Bushmen in southern Africa, the Patagonians and Terra del Fuegans in South America. The nearer man lives to the polar regions the greater his inferiority in intellect, the greater his barbarism.

Now, changing our starting point, if two other parallels are drawn, one fifteen degrees north and another fifteen degrees south of the equator, the country within these parallels would contain the richest and most abundantly watered lands, produc-

ing the greatest varieties of vegetal and animal life, the largest variety of the most beautiful birds and flowers, the most ferocious animals; both animal and vegetal life carried to the highest perfection, save only in the case of man, for whose development a different zone has been required.

When we look at the geographic distribution of man and observe that from the Arctic seas to the Antarctic ocean the world is inhabited by men of differing race, color, character and civilization, we naturally ask, Are the Mongolian, the Polynesian, the Negro, the Indian, and the Caucasian descended from one or from many progenitors? We believe that there are facts sufficient to show that man may have originated in one place and migrated thence over the world. We have evidence of the the life of man during the Ice age in caves among the foothills of the mountains of France, where the bones of men and the remains of their food, nuts and roots, with the bones of the cave bear, the woolly-haired rhinoceros, and other extinct animals have been found. As years rolled on and men multiplied, they were compelled to wander in search of food: some to colder climates, where they dug holes in the earth in imitation of caves and covered them with the branches of trees and leaves; others emigrated to southeastern Europe and thence to western Asia, where finding neither caves nor trees, they built huts of stone and mud, and wandering still further into China they made houses of bamboo; still others migrated to the torrid zone and lived in the woods, the trees their only shelter. Wherever men wandered they were governed in the construction of their habitations and in their food by the climate, the materials at hand, and the vegetation.

Some early men found their way to the sea-coast, where mollusks and fish served them for food. From the extent of the shell mounds in our country and the kitchen-middens of Scandinavia, these places must have been inhabited for many hundreds and some say thousands of years. In Europe the forests and running streams furnished game and fish, and there man lived by hunting and fishing. In eastern and central Asia the country is open, destitute of trees and running water, the land of the wild horse, goat and cow; by slow degrees these animals were domesticated, and the nomads became shepherds. The tribe remained the same, roaming from place to place in quest of game and fish or of pasture, without any permanent abiding

place or connection with the soil; even a small tribe required a large tract of land, for a square mile supported only one man, while in England the population is 265 and in portions of India over 400 to the square mile. The flocks and herds increased, and gradually came the idea of personal property. After man ceased to be a nomad and became a tiller of the soil and began to sow and reap, then came the idea of property in real estate, belonging not to the individual but to the tribe.

In all countries similar weapons and instruments were used in the chase and for warfare and in the construction of habitations. Stones, everywhere found, were early shaped into darts and lances and then into arrow-heads and axes. This was the Stone age. Copper mines have been found in Egypt and near Lake Superior, abandoned long before the beginning of history; copper from these and other mines was the first metal used because found in its native state; then tin, and with the invention of bronze a further advance toward civilization. This was the Bronze age. Every new invention or discovery made the next stage more rapid; yet it was long after the Bronze age before iron was used.

Even now in the different parts of the world men are passing through these various stages. In Kamchatka the natives live in caves of rocks and cover the openings with skins; they have no domestic animals, not even the dog; their weapons are bones and pointed stones. In Terra del Fuego the natives live on sea mussels, fish, rats and wild geese. In central Africa the Dwarfs possess no domestic animal but poultry, and some of the tribes live almost entirely on roots, berries and nuts. These people belong to the Stone age. Other tribes of Africa have passed from savagery to barbarism, the first stage of progress, and make vessels of copper and bronze. The equatorial Indians of South America subsist almost entirely on the fruit of the banana and the palm tree, and by hunting and fishing. The Mandans of Dakota lived in mud houses. I have seen similar huts among the Tatars of Asia. In Russia the agricultural land generally belongs to the commune, or mir, as the commune is called. Every year the property is allotted to the families of the mir according to their size.

In the earliest ages government was unknown; with the family came the first idea of government, the head of the family having despotic power over all its members; then several fam-

ilies formed the clan, and as the clan grew came the tribe, the association of clans.

The earliest civilizations of which we have any knowledge are those of Egypt, Babylon, and China, and though the monuments of those civilizations are from 5,000 to 6,000 years old, and perhaps much older, they show that centuries of civilization must have antedated their erection; for the Sphinx and the Pyramid of Cheops, the earliest monuments of Egypt, have never been surpassed. The manners and customs of the Egyptians and Chinese were almost identical, though their architecture was of entirely different type, depending on the material convenient for use—in Egypt, stone; in China, bamboo and wood. The syllabic symbols of the Chinese are the counterparts of the hieroglyphic writings of Egypt. The civilization of other nations, save perhaps that of the Indians of this continent, was derived from and dependent in a greater or less degree on that of Babylon and Egypt.

China.

At some early period Mongolian tribes must have passed the Pamir, descended the plateau of Tibet into the rich valleys of eastern China, dispossessed the aborigines of their lands, and extirpated, absorbed or forced them into inaccessible fastnesses. The physical geography of China influenced and tended to form the character of its inhabitants. On the north are the deserts of Mongolia and Gobi, beyond these Siberia, until recently even more desolate than the Mongolian desert; on the east the ocean; on the south China sea and the Himalaya mountains; on the south and west the highest and most extensive plateau in the world, Tibet, and behind it a long chain of mountains crossed only by passes from 14,000 to 20,000 feet in altitude. These well-nigh impassable barriers cut off the Chinese from communication with the world, and for ages they remained entirely unknown to Europeans, whom they regarded as outside barbarians.

The great rivers of China have afforded an unsurpassed system of inter-communication, and to this the empire owes the homogeneous character of its population, and largely also its long-continued political unity. The Chinese very early passed from the nomadic to the agricultural state, and for a long period must have made great progress in art and science; but in some remote

age this progress was stopped, and since then they have neither advanced nor retrograded. The Chinese invented gunpowder, the mariners' compass, and the printing-press. They made silk goods and ceramics long before they were known to the western world; but they used gunpowder only for fire-works, and even with the compass they never ventured so far from the land as the Phenecians without it. They had the printing-press long before Europe, but their literature is greatly inferior to that of the Greeks and Romans, who used only the papyrus and skins or parchment for their writings. Their fields of bituminous and anthracite coal are unsurpassed in extent, but though coal has been used for ages in their houses, it has never to any considerable extent been used for other purposes. Their form of government, the patriarchal, which contributed to stay development, is founded on the conception of the state as an enlarged family, and of the family as the state in miniature. As the father possesses absolute control over his own family, so the emperor possesses despotic power over the lives and property of all the families. The Chinese have neither freedom of mind nor liberty of body. They are an impersonal people with little conscious individuality. Their civilization, begun so early, has remained stationary for thousands of years.

Arabia.

From China we pass to another country no less peculiar in its physical features, but entirely dissimilar. In a territory nearly two-thirds surrounded by water we should not expect to find one of the arid tracts of the world, where rain falls only once in three or four years; in a country on a parallel of latitude only a little south of Florida, with a mean altitude of 3,000 feet, we do not expect to find the zone of maximum heat, and still less do we expect to find ice and snow for three months of the year on mountains only 7,000 to 8,000 feet in height. All of these contrasts are found in Arabia. A range of mountains follows the coast line around the whole of Arabia, and except on Red sea and on a few small streams and oases Arabia is dry, hot and barren, the land of the shepherd. The largest cities are Mecca and Medina, near Red sea, to which annually thousands of pilgrims resort; for it is a sacred obligation on every Mohammedan to visit Mecca before he dies. Arabia has been peopled from

the earliest times, and the bedouin, the inhabitants of the larger portion of its territory, have never passed beyond the nomad state. The bedouin have always cherished the poet and have a rich literature of poetry and romance, and in every tent of Arabia may be heard the recital of the stories of the "Arabian Nights." The Arab sheik with his tribe roams from place to place seeking pasture for his horses and herds. Thus, without contact of man with man, without schools or education, progress in trade or commerce is impossible.

The Arabs as Mohammedans ruled the whole territory from Caspian sea to the Indian ocean, and from the western border of India through northern Africa to the Atlantic; they crossed the straits of Gibralter and, as Moors, conquered the greater part of Spain and southern Gaul, where their further progress was stopped by Charles Martel at Tours in the year 732. Wherever they came in contact with other races they accomplished much in science, especially in astronomy, but little in art. Even now, through their religion and institutions, they give the law to one-eighth part of the human race, while their language is one of the most extensively spoken in the world. To the Arabs we owe probably our first knowledge of astronomy and the Arabic numerals, brought to us from India through Arabia.

Egypt.

China may have been inhabited before Egypt, but it is the latter country that has influenced the civilization of the world.

As Egypt has neither game nor fruits for food, nor broad plains for cattle to roam, it could not have been inhabited at an early period nor by a nomadic race. Its inhabitants must have come from the east and not from the south, from Asia and not from Nubia, for they are of the Asiatic and not the Negro type.

The climate is warm but not enervating; the soil, though rich, produces no large trees—indeed the willow seems to have been the only tree that grew spontaneously on the river banks,—while the indigenous plants were unsuitable for food. It is inclosed by deserts on the east and west, and beyond the valley by two low mountain ranges called by Arabian writers "The Wings of the Nile," on the south by the mountains of Nubia, on the north by a broad band of marsh land and shallow lakes extending along the coast that held the people back from the

sea, while the want of timber suitable for ships prevented them from becoming a maritime nation. Herodotus says, "Egypt is the gift of the Nile." Its valley is so level that it is enriched by each inundation of the Nile throughout its entire length of 600 miles and breadth of from 12 to 15 miles, a little regular labor thus securing large returns. The houses were built of dried mud, as there are neither trees nor stone, and adobe houses answered in a country where rain seldom falls. The pyramids were built of stone brought from several hundred miles up the Nile. The king was the first soldier and the high-priest, the representative of the gods before the nation. The pyramids were constructed by the descendants of those who had even then long occupied the land—the ancestors of the present fellahin. Egypt was conquered by the Hyksos or shepherd kings, by Cambyses, Alexander, and others in turn; foreign rulers usurped the throne, but the people remained unchanged. If a mummy should awake from his sleep of three thousand years he would today see the same sky above him, the same river overflowing its bank, the same deserts; the same people living in similar houses, cultivating the ground with the same kind of plow, irrigating with the same shadoof—a people as changeless as the sky, the river and the desert.

Architecture has never reached such vast proportions elsewhere, but art, swathed in bands like the mummies, was forced into the same cold rigidity and remained unchanged as the monuments erected by despotic sovereigns under a sky as unchangeable as themselves.

To the Egyptians we owe the development of agriculture and architecture.

Mesopotamia.

Mesopotamia, or "The land between the rivers" (Euphrates and Tigris), was formerly called Assyria and Babylonia. Assyria occupied the upper portion, 500 miles long and from 100 to 300 miles wide, a well watered, rich country. Its capital was Nineveh.

The lower part of the valley, Babylonia, was the seat of the earliest civilization. It was 400 miles long and about 100 miles wide, a rainless country watered by the overflow of the Euphrates and the Tigris from April to June, formerly irrigated by numerous canals connecting the Tigris and Euphrates.

East of Mesopotamia were the mountains and deserts of Scythia, early inhabited by nomad tribes without permanent or fixed habitations. As they increased they required more land for their herds, and the overflowing population was forced into the plains of Mesopotamia, where they began the cultivation of the valley. Mesopotamia was successively ruled by Babylonian, Assyrian, Chaldean, Syrian, Median, and Persian monarchs. The kings were the religious as well as the secular heads, despots of the most absolute kind, ruling over a nation of slaves. They built a vast number of great cities. As there were no stones in the lower valley the buildings were constructed of sun-dried brick, and although there was stone in Assyria, brick was generally used as in Babylon.

In Nineveh and Babylon the architecture of the palaces and city walls surpassed in variety, beauty, and taste that of Egypt. Hieroglyphics were gradually superseded by cuneiform characters, running from left to right, in which many books and instruments were written. As early as the twentieth century B. C. their annals were engraved on stone, and every great city had its library of baked bricks or tablets, stamped in minute characters, arranged in order and numbered, so that the student had only to give the number of the tablet and receive it from the librarian. But notwithstanding their architecture, their libraries and luxury, the people were intellectually and morally barbarous. Mesopotamia, unlike Egypt, was not protected by deserts from incursions. The nomads of Scythia, tempted by the wealth and luxury of the inhabitants of the plains, again and again left their flocks and poured into the valley, and though often repulsed, finally overthrew the empire and destroyed the irrigating canals; the land was then covered with sand, and Mesopotamia has become a desert waste.

To the inhabitants of Babylonia and Assyria we owe the development of trade and commerce by the caravan.

Syria.

Between Mesopotamia and Arabia lies Syria, a small country remarkable for its physical features and its wonderful history. In the east a great desert with beautiful oases, where were Palmyra, Baalbec and Damascus; west of these oases the mountains of Moab and Gilead; beyond the mountains in the valley

of the Jordan, with the lake of Gallilee at the north and the Dead sea at the south, Palestine, the land of the Jews. Beyond the Jordan lay Lebanon and Anti-lebanon; on the sea-coast the land of Tyre and Sidon.

By its position, Syria was the great battle-field of Africa and Asia. Bordering on the Mediterranean, it has been the means of transmitting the civilizing influences of the east to the west, and generations later that of the west to the east.

The great plateau of Syria stops suddenly at some distance from the Mediterranean and encircles on a large curve a belt of coast land, sometimes expanding into large plains cut up by rocky spurs into narrow valleys opening into the sea and inhabited by the Phenecians. Good harbors and timber from the mountains of Lebanon and the outlook on the sea invited the inhabitants to launch on the Mediterranean their vessels theretofore confined to the rivers of Mesopotamia.

The Phenecians, like many other people in modern times, began their mercantile career by plundering the neighboring coasts and villages. They rapidly increased in number, and soon wealthy cities sprang up on the sea-coast, each city with its adjacent territory governed by its king. The Phenecians sent out colonies, east to the Persian gulf and Red sea; west to Greece, Carthage, Sicily, Italy, and Spain. They sailed through the straits of Gibralter northward and southward into the Atlantic and became merchants and traders, exchanging their manufactures of glass and Tyrian dyes for the goods and precious stones of the east, the wheat and grain of Carthage, the gold and silver of Spain, the tin and copper of Great Britain.

The country was frequently conquered by Assyria, Babylon, and Egypt without affecting its prosperity; but when Greece became a maritime power the Phenecians were driven from the eastern Mediterranean, and later the Romans drove them from the western Mediterranean, each state thus protecting its own trade and commerce.

To Phenecia we owe the development of navigation and commerce, the alphabet and, probably, weights and measures.

Persia and India.

Three thousand five hundred years ago the Aryans, emigrating from the cradle lands of their race, passed through Syria into

Persia and later into India, in each country driving the native races before them and occupying the most favored parts of the land.

The geographic features of Persia and India are dissimilar, affording an opportunity to notice the effect produced on the same race by differences in the physical geography of the two countries. Persia formerly included Afghanistan and Beloochistan, and was called the Iranian plateau. It is environed with mountains, so that one-half the drainage is inland. Mountain chains cross it in every direction; it is dry and hot in summer, cold in winter, with great salt deserts and rich fertile valleys of limited extent; it is the land of the rose and the nightingale.

The Persians are naturally brave, warlike, independent and unconquered, but under a despotic government a part of the people have lost much of their independence and have become great traders. This despotism is, however, principally confined to the cities and towns, for the larger proportion of the population are nomads, subject only to their chiefs, and remain free and independent. The area of the Iranian plateau is about two-thirds that of India; the population of the one is 13,000,000; of the other, 287,000,000.

The vedas, hymns which the Aryans sang three thousand years ago on the banks of the Indus in northern India, give us our earliest knowledge of India. They show that when they were written the Aryans were a people of robust rudeness and manly freedom, in character entirely unlike the Hindus of to-day, more like the nomad Persians.

The Aryans found one of the richest countries in the world, generally well watered and easily cultivated: in the north, a temperate and healthful climate, the region of the Himalayas and their foot-hills; in northern-central India, the warm, rich valleys of the Indus and Ganges. Further southward low mountains cross the country from east to west, and from these mountains rich plains with an equatorial climate extend to southern India and Ceylon. The Aryans conquered India, driving the aborigines into the mountains and jungles and the Dravidians into the southern parts of India, where they retain their habits and customs. Though the same race conquered and settled Persia and India, it would be difficult to find two nations now more unlike: the Persians restless, strong, brave and independent; the Hindus small in stature, weak in body, highly imaginative, with little

independence or even love of liberty, easily enslaved, and passive under bondage.

Into this country, considerably over a thousand years ago, the Mohammedans came and settled among the earlier inhabitants; and now Brahmins, Mohammedans, Sudras, Dravidians and aborigines live together in all parts of India without anything in common—they never intermarry, their religious and domestic life and all their interests are in opposition; this diversion of interests preventing them from uniting against foreign invaders or domestic tyrants. England, therefore, with an army of 220,300 (British, 71,171; native, 149,129) rules the 287,000,000 people of India. There is scarcely a country in the world containing so great a diversity of tribes and races as India, where we find every stage of civilization, from the philosophic Hindu down to the most degraded savage.

The arts of India were more original and varied than those of Rome; her forms of civilization present an ever-changing variety, such as are nowhere else to be found. Greece and Rome are dead, but India is a living entity and a complete cosmos in itself. Within the life of the present generation England has introduced great reforms, abolished inhuman customs, diffused education, and built railroads in many directions, tending to overthrow caste and gradually change the character of the people.

Greece.

From Persia we turn to Europe and to Greece, the country with which Asia had for many centuries close connection. As the geographic situation of Phenecia gave commerce to the world, so the position of Greece, a short distance west of Phenecia, gave a further and greater advance to civilization.

Greece, the smallest of the three peninsulas of Europe, is the most bountifully endowed by nature. In variety of physical features it excels the countries of Europe, as Europe excels the other continents. Into its small territory are gathered all the peculiarities of the continent to which it belongs—mountains, valleys, rivers, a lovely climate and fine scenery, seas with deep gulfs studded with islands, the largest extent of sea-coast in proportion to its territory of any country. Its mountain ranges opening to the sea inclose fertile valleys, which naturally led to the formation of autonomous communities, in which each developed its own political, social and artistic life independently

of all others. No other country possessed within such narrow limits so many different characteristics of humanity with such varied tastes, pursuits, and amusements. Fond of liberty, bold and adventurous, never acting together unless driven by the necessity of an alliance against a common foe, there were yet bonds of unity in the poems of Homer, in their religion, in their temples, and especially in their games.

The gulfs of Corinth and Egina, now connected by a canal, divide Greece into parts, each antagonistic to the other: on the one side were the Dorians, represented by Sparta; on the other the Ionians, represented by Athens; the one an oligarchy, the other a democracy; in the one tyranny of the state, in the other freedom of the family; in the one contempt for labor, in the other work honorable alike for all; war and hunting the sole occupation of the Spartans, commerce, the arts and sciences the pursuit of the Athenians. The government of Athens was at first democratic, a government of the people by families and tribes. Its life-and-death struggle with the Persians compelled the Athenians to build a navy and assume the leadership of Greece, and to change the form of government. If Greece had been defeated, her whole civilization would have been crushed by eastern despotism and neither her artistic nor her spiritual life would have been possible. Greece was the home of individual freedom and democracy, of great philosophers, poets, architects, sculptors, and painters. Though Greece and Athens fell, it was only to spread their influence and learning far and wide.

To Greece we owe the separation of church and state—for it is the earliest nation of which we have any knowledge where the king and priest were not united in the same person,—the development of philosophy, literature and art, and the ideas of democracy and the personality of man.

Rome.

The geographic position of Italy, a neighbor of Greece, bordering on Gaul and not far from Spain, dividing the Mediterranean into two distinct parts, was admirably adapted to make her capital in the middle of Italy—Rome—the center of the ancient world, its mistress.

Rome had the genius of government; her rule was not that of a race, for she united a hundred different races in the state,

The east and the west contributed to her greatness. The provinces which became tributary to her enjoyed, in healthfulness and fertility of soil, in variety of vegetal and mineral products, and in natural facilities for transportation and distribution of exchangeable commodities, advantages that have not been possessed in equal degree by any territory of like extent in the Old World or the New. From Mesopotamia came cotton and silk and from India precious stones; from Arabia the Blest came spices; grain came from Egypt and Sicily, elephants, lions and tigers for her colosseum and circus from Africa, gold and silver from Spain, iron, copper and tin from England, gladiators from Gaul and Germany. Even the harvests of Egypt and the wealth of Asia could not forever supply the demands of the Roman emperor and support in idleness and luxury the people of Rome. Some of the countries from which Rome had long drawn its supplies became exhausted of their fertility and so diminished in productiveness as to be no longer capable of affording sustenance even to their own inhabitants, while others refused to be still longer subject to the despotic rule of Rome. Lands which from their abundance sustained a population scarcely inferior to that of the whole Christian world of the present day became entirely unproductive or at least capable of supporting only the few tribes which wander over their deserts. While this exhaustion of the national resources was going on the Gauls and Germans, taught the art of war by their conflicts with the Romans, once and yet again crossed the Alps and carried war into the heart of Italy. The Goths, Huns and Vandals, with hordes from the far-distant deserts of Tartary and Mongolia, poured through the fastnesses of the Alps, and Rome fell.

To Rome we owe the idea of universal dominion, the merging of all nations into one, and the civil law.

We have now finished our review of the nations of the Old World, and have shown that all nations pass through similar stages of progress from savagery to a more or less advanced state of barbarism, and that beyond these stages nations have rarely if ever progressed without a change in their surroundings or contact with other peoples. Certain nations like Egypt, Arabia, and China had an early development, and since then have been persistent, but have made no progress, while other highly civilized nations, like the Babylonians, Assyrians, Phenicians,

Grecians and Romans, have had their times of development, progress and decay. In these nations, excepting Greece, civilization was confined to the rulers and the noble families, while the people were sunk in the deepest degradation and without true civilization.

We turn now to modern nations, from Asia to Europe, Africa, and America.

Scandinavia.

After the fall of Rome the first revival of civilization seems to have come from the far north, "The land of the midnight sun."

A slight knowledge of the geography of Europe will show why Scandinavia, the home of the vikings, was the first to awake from the lethargy of the dark ages. Though it lies far away in the northernmost part of Europe, yet the winds and waves from the Gulf stream bathe its shores and give it a more equable climate than that of New England. Whoever looks at the map of Norway and sees its gulfs, bays, numerous fiords, and fine harbors probably exceeding in number those of all the other countries of Europe, will see what gave her the vikings, a race of seamen, and why her population, when they found no room on their own shores, sailed for other lands and occupations. They early became pirates and freebooters, then founded colonies on the coasts of North sea, in France, on the coasts of Italy and Sicily, in England, the Orkney islands, Iceland, and Greenland. In the geographic position of their country and in their habits they somewhat resemble the inhabitants of Tyre and Sidon.

Italy.

Though Scandinavia opened a new era for commerce and for a time was all-powerful on the ocean, yet the northmen did little for the development of a higher civilization. For progress in the arts and sciences, we must return to the shores of the Mediterranean.

Italy, situated in the middle of the Mediterranean, the peninsula of Europe which extends furthest southward, rich in its valleys and fine harbors, the land of the vine and fig-tree, is the only country which has had a renaissance. The ships of Venice and Genoa became the carriers of Europe, exchanging

the products of the Orient for the goods and wares of Europe; and when Constantinople fell and the church of the east was overthrown, Rome a second time became the capital of the world, the church was separated from the state, and the pope became the spiritual head of the world.

The practical and reasoning mind of the north could not long bear this rule. The discovery of America, the invention of the printing-press, and the personality and independence of northern Europe produced Luther and the Reformation, broke up the old regime, and brought in a new life to Europe.

Spain.

From Italy the wave of civilization which rolled over the peninsulas of the Mediterranean at last reached Iberia—the Spain and Portugal of today. The greater part of this peninsula is an elevated plateau, dry and hot in summer, cold in winter, its southern and western coasts only having the climate and products of Greece and southern Italy. The difference of climate and the admixture with more southern races has given to the Spaniards and Portuguese a different complexion, temperament and character from the inhabitants of northern Europe. The sea-coast and harbors of Portugal invited its people to send out ships on voyages of discovery and trade along the coast of Africa.

The peace which followed the war of Ferdinand and Isabella with the Moors left a multitude of restless spirits ready for any rash undertaking; and for them the discovery of America opened a wide field of adventure and led to the conquest of the New World and the Orient. Gold and silver poured into Spain, the labor of slaves was substituted for that of the freeman, and Spain became the first nation of the world, extending her empire over central Europe and the Netherlands; but wealth, luxury, and the religious despotism which reached highest development in the Inquisition led to her conflict with Great Britain and finally to her fall.

Great Britain.

Great Britain, protected by her insular position from foreign invasion, with a mild climate, abundant rainfall, fertile soil, good harbors, and vast mineral wealth, is most favorably situated for a great nation; yet for many generations before the discovery

of America the Britons made little progress in population, wealth or civilization.

Later, Hawkins, Drake and others saw that the African slave trade was very profitable; so with the aid of Elizabeth they built ships, captured negroes in Africa, and carried them to the West Indies, where they were sold as slaves. Their followers became buccaneers and pirates, finding that occupation still more profitable. Leaders and seamen were thus trained for the war with Spain, which resulted in the destruction of the Armada and made England a maritime power. She founded colonies in North America, captured islands in the West Indies and Pacific, and subsequently acquired India, Cape Colony and the Gold coast in Africa, with all of Australia and New Zealand. England became a great commercial and mercantile nation, a mother of nations; coal and iron mines were opened, the steam engine and steam ships were invented; she became a manufacturing nation, the carrier and banker of the world, and her wealth and prosperity increased and still continue to grow.

Africa.

Over against Greece and Italy and in sight of the Iberian peninsula is Africa, the eldest of the continents, the birth-place of European civilization.

In its physical aspect, its population and its civilization, Africa is unlike the other continents. It is a huge peninsula, with few bays and gulfs, scarcely any islands, without good harbors or rivers navigable from the ocean into the interior. It has only one-fourth as much sea-coast in proportion to its area as Europe, and only one-third as much as America. It is the only continent in which the largest part of its territory lies within the tropics. As the earth here spontaneously furnishes food for the sustenance of man, and as only scanty clothing is required, all inducements to either mental or manual labor are wanting.

In all the continents we find traces of inhabitants of a different race from those now peopling them, but in no other country are the movements of different races so well marked as in Africa. The Arabs who now inhabit the northern part of Africa drove the former occupants, the Bantus, toward central Africa; they in their turn dispossessed the Negro, while the Negro dispossessed the Dwarfs and their kinfolk the Bushmen and the Hottentots, who were probably the aborigines. The Dwarfs retreated

to the thick woods of the interior, the Bushmen and the Hottentots to the extreme southern lands of Africa.

Cape Colony, in the southern part of Africa, in a mountainous region with salubrious climate and considerable fertile soil, was settled by the Dutch in 1652, only thirty years subsequent to the landing of the Pilgrims at Plymouth. For over one hundred years the English have held it, but the population today is only 1,530,000, of whom but 370,000 are whites and 1,160,000 Africans. It should have been a fit home for the white race, but they have not flourished there.

Contrast Cape Colony with the Argentine republic, on the same parallel of latitude and with a similar climate. The immigration into that state within the last ten years has been over 1,200,000; in 1869 the population was 1,877,000; in 1891, 5,200,000.

Natal, formally occupied by a small number of boers, was seized by the British in 1843, when it had only a few inhabitants. It possesses great advantages of soil, a semi-tropical but agreeable and healthful climate; the land rising in plateaus from the coast affords several varieties of temperature. Emigrants at different times have poured into the Colony, yet although fifty years have elapsed since its settlement by the British, Natal has only 46,000 Europeans out of a population of over 540,000. Great numbers of Negroes, refugees from the neighboring Zulu country, have settled in Natal, attracted by the good government of the English.

Algeria, in the north temperate zone, has a climate like that of Spain, Italy, and Greece. It was conquered by the French and has been held by them for over sixty years. France has sent many colonists to Algeria, but the increase in the European population has been very slow, and for a long time the deaths exceeded the births. The population in 1893 was estimated at 4,124,000, including about 267,000 French and 215,000 other Europeans. The French have had little better success in northern Africa than the English in the south.

Within the last fifteen years the nations of Europe have made a few settlements in different parts of Africa, the results of which cannot be foretold.

America.

The physical geography of America is essentially different from that of the old world, very largely by reason of the fact that in the one the mountains run north and south, in the other

east and west. It has less ocean front to the square mile than Europe, more than either Asia or Africa.

When America was discovered its north temperate region was occupied by numerous tribes of Indians, living by hunting and fishing, almost always at war with one another. South of Ohio river the land was more easily tilled, and the tribes that inhabited it, unlike the aborigines of New England and New York, cultivated a little ground and were less savage. Still further southward, in Georgia, Alabama, and Mississippi, the Cherokees, Chocktaws, and Natches had an organized government with fixed places of residence and tribal rights. They relied for their support more on agriculture than on the chase and fishing. The Pueblos, in New Mexico and Arizona, inhabiting the cliff dwellings, had advanced to a still higher state of civilization. Among the Pueblos, as well as among the more highly civilized tribes of Central America, were other tribes living in the same territory, much more savage than their neighbors, and in some cases even more savage than the Indians of New England. Still further southward, in Central America, in a warmer zone, tempered by its high mountains, was a higher civilization than in the north. Unfortunately, we know little either of this people or of the Incas of Peru. On the Pacific coast of North America, in a territory 50 miles wide and 1,000 miles long, were a vast number of different races and languages. In South America there was a greater variety of race and language than in North America east of the Sierra Nevada.

In South America is the richest valley of the torrid or temperate zone, watered by the Orinoco and the Amazon. A rich soil, with a moist and hot climate and an abundance of rain, produces a most luxuriant vegetation. Mr Buckle says: "Here, where physical resources are the most powerful, where the soil is watered by the noblest rivers, the coast studded by the finest harbors, the profusion of nature has hindered social progress and opposed that accumulation of wealth without which progress is impossible." Fortunately, most valuable timber, the rubber tree, quinine, and tapioca yield abundant harvests without the labor of planting and watching from seed time to harvest, and by quick gains for light work offer inducements to the laborer to acquire habits of industry. The inhabitants of this region are a mixed race of Spaniards, Indians, and Negroes, numbering about 37,000,000, of which 21 percent are white, 35 percent Indians, 40 percent mixed, and 6 percent Negroes. In

all these countries, even those where there are few whites, the pure Indian is steadily giving away to the mixed blood, apparently the product of natural selection. It would seem from this that the climate and country are better adapted to the increase of mixed blood than either the Spanish or the Indian.

Central America and South America were settled by the Latin race, North America by the French and English. The French early founded settlements on the Saint Lawrence, and have ever since occupied the larger portion of its valley, though their population has never spread outside of this territory and portions of New England. They are a hardy, frugal, and industrious race, living in a cold, unfruitful country; all their strength and resources are expended in obtaining a scanty livelihood, leaving them without opportunity to develop the artistic taste and culture natural to the French race.

The United States owes its rapid growth and prosperity largely to the valley of the Mississippi. This great valley slopes from the east and west and toward the south, and has the largest extent of rich arable land in the temperate zone. West of the Missouri are great plains, and further westward among the Rockies great parks and plateaus, with short summers and long winters, so dry that neither heat nor cold are unpleasant. Here also are great mineral veins, bearing gold and silver, lead and copper, iron and coal, with rapid streams, fit country for the miner, the manufacturer, and the herdsman. In the far west, where there are only from five to fifteen inches of rainfall, numerous irrigating ditches have been made, and by means of the storm water collected in reservoirs the desert has been made to yield most abundant harvests.

The English and their descendants have never mingled with the Indians, but have driven them from their homes, following the example of every other nation of the Old World in occupying the territory of the aborigines. As soon as the rich plains and fertile prairies of the Ohio and Mississippi valleys were explored, thousands and tens of thousands of emigrants from the Old and New World flocked into a region where they could obtain homesteads for the asking. This emigration benefited both continents, for the population and wealth of the Old World has rapidly increased since emigration began, and never in the history of the world has so much wealth been created as by the settlement and cultivation of these valleys.

Although the blood of many nations is mingled in the United States, we find the same peculiarities prevailing along the same parallels of latitude today that existed in the Old World and in the colonies when the country was settled. The people of the north are more practical and more inventive than the people of the south. In the northern states, in 1891, one patent was issued to each 3,257 of the population, in the southern states one to every 11,181 of the population; in Connecticut one to every 965, in Mississippi one to every 23,447.

Slavery was early introduced into the United States, but its increase was very slow until the cotton-gin was invented, when the raising of cotton became profitable and the slave population necessary to the cultivation rapidly increased. It is impossible to ascertain how many Negroes were imported into the United States between 1619, when the first cargo was landed at Jamestown, and 1808, when the trade ceased. By a count made prior to the Revolution the number of slaves was a little over 500,000. The first census, in 1792, showed 757,000 colored, most of whom were slaves. In 1861 there were 4,440,000, of which 488,000 were free. Since the abolition of slavery the blacks have concentrated upon lands at once both hot and moist, in the middle of the Gulf states, and have increased more rapidly than the whites in the states of South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi and Louisiana. The negroes have increased 70 percent, the whites 60 percent.

Table showing the relative Increase of Negroes in the Gulf States.

	1860.	1870.	1880.	1890.
Negroes	2,104,000	2,245,000	3,064,000	3,528,000
Whites	2,120,000	2,195,000	2,805,000	3,377,000
	4,224,000	4,440,000	5,869,000	6,905,000

Jamaica and San Domingo.

A healthy climate, fertile soil, good harbors, and luxuriant vegetation, or even a large and prosperous white population, are not sufficient to ensure progress in civilization. Jamaica, the

Queen of the Antilles, is one of the loveliest islands of the West Indies, with a tropical climate on the coast, in the interior high mountains with a temperate climate, a sea breeze by day and a land breeze by night stronger than are found elsewhere.

In slavery times the sugar and coffee properties made the planters of Jamaica the richest men of England, and the white population steadily increased, while the deaths among the slaves exceeded the births, and the number was kept up only by the average annual importation of 9,000 slaves. The abolition of slavery caused the failure of the planters, the decrease of the white population, the abandonment of the greater part of the plantations and properties, and the rapid increase of the blacks. In 1861 there were 13,816 whites, 81,074 mixed, 346,376 blacks; total, 441,266. The proportion was one white man to six mixed or mulattoes and twenty-four blacks; today it is one white man to four mixed and sixty blacks, the total population being 639,491.

San Domingo is even more beautiful than Jamaica. It has a healthful climate, high mountains, beautiful scenery, fine harbors, a fertile soil which repays with three harvests a year the labor of the husbandman. The first European settlements in America were on this island, four hundred years ago. As the Indian proved incapable of enduring the hard labor imposed by the Spaniards, Las Casas introduced Negroes to save the life of the Indian. His efforts were unsuccessful, for the Indians, numbering it is said 2,000,000 when the Spaniards landed, have all perished. The white man ruled for nearly three hundred years; vast fortunes were made; the returns from slave labor were so great that the carrying trade employed 1,400 vessels with crews of 50,000 men.

About one hundred years ago the blacks of Haiti threw off the French yoke, murdered the white men, and established what they called a republic. San Domingo subsequently threw off the Spanish yoke and declared itself free and independent. The Spaniards were killed as the French had been. The white man perished even as the Indian perished, and all trade and prosperity passed away. Since then both states have sunk into the deepest barbarism, and the people, three-fourths black and one-fourth mixed blood, are daily becoming more savage. Fetichism and cannibalism are here combined, and the people have fallen lower in the scale of civilization than the Negroes of Africa.

The most favored places in the world for climate, fertility of soil, and ease of access are, first, the West Indies; next the islands of Oceanica. Surpassing these in fertility and equaling them in salubrity of climate is the valley of the Amazon. These regions are now inhabited by the Negro, the Polynesian, and the Indian. The Negro in the equatorial regions, unless held as a slave, supplants the white man; the Polynesian and Indian both fade before the civilization of the white man. In the valley of the Amazon a mixed race of whites and Indians seems persistent, and the white element by a kind of natural selection predominates.

A late writer says that these regions must be given up to inferior races; to this conclusion we cannot agree. In the progress of civilization man with his inventions and discoveries, by the applied power of steam and electricity, has practically annihilated time and space. In the early history of man he was controlled by and subject to his environment, which shaped his life and formed his character; now he in turn controls his environment. In our homes we temper the summer heat and make an equatorial climate in winter; we daily provide our tables with all the products of each season of the year and every clime; we have begun even to understand and combat the microbes of the tropical regions that have brought sickness and death in their train.

We have followed the progress of civilization from the rising to the setting sun; we have witnessed its decay in one country, followed by the rise of a higher civilization in another; we have seen it cross the Atlantic to the New World where it has spread, ever widening and deepening its scope, until it has leavened the whole mass of humanity.

We began with the proposition that in all the ages of the past civilization has been confined to the favored regions lying in the temperate zone; but with ever increasing knowledge there seems to be no reason to doubt that man will eventually bring under subjection all the adverse conditions of physical life and become the master of his environment, until the whole earth, even those regions heretofore supposed to be entirely unfit for habitation, shall own his power and become the abode of the highest intelligence and greatest civilization.

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